

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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DRAFTED BY: S/ NM: HRWELLMAN

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R 141834 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE INFO BANGKOK, TAIPEI, HONG KONG,  
FROM RANGOON JUNE 12, REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 1365

E. O.8211652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NARC BM TS

SUBJECT: BURMESE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES DISBANDMENT OF SELF- DEFENSE  
FORCES ( KKY) IN SHAN STATES

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. UNDER HEADLINES SUCH AS " DEFENSE UNITS  
ABOLISHED IN SHAN STATES," FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS FRONTPAGED OR  
PROMINENTLY PLAYED IN ALL RANGOON ENGLISH AND BURMESE LANGUAGE  
PAPERS JUNE 12. BEGIN QUOTE. LASHIO, 11 JUN - THE " LOCAL DEFENSE  
UNITS" IN THE EASTERN AND NORTH- EASTERN COMMAND TERRITORIES HAVE  
BEEN DISBANDED, EXPLAINED DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR  
COL TIN OO TO THE VISITING JOURNALISTS AT THE NORTH- EAST COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS HERE THIS AFTERNOON. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS AT-  
TENDED BY COMMANDER COL AYE KO, COMMANDER OF THE 88 TH DIVISION  
COL MYO AUNG, DEPUTY COMMANDERS, OFFICIALS OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY  
AND VISITING JOURNALISTS FROM STATE NEWSPAPERS, COLUMNISTS AND  
FOREIGN NEWS CORRESPONDENTS.

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COL TIN OO SAID THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY LAID DOWN A POLICY FOR THE DISBANDMENT OF THE "LOCAL DEFENSE UNITS", WHICH WERE FORMED AT THE TIME OF THE KMT INCURSIONS, AS THEY WERE NO LONGER NEEDED.

FOLLOWING THE DISBANDMENT, HE SAID, SOME OF THE "DEFENSE MEN" SURRENDERED THEIR ARMS, AMMUNITION AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT WHILE OTHERS WENT UNDERGROUND.

ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE UNITS LIVED UP TO THEIR ORIGINAL AIMS OF PROVIDING REGIONAL SECURITY, OTHERS INDULGED IN OPIUM TRAFFICKING, SMUGGLING AND OTHER EXCESSES TO FURTHER THEIR OWN INTERESTS WITH THE RESULT THAT ELEMENTS OF THE IBMND (TAIWAN DEFENSE UNITS) INFILTRATED THEIR RANKS AND CORRUPTED THEM, THEREBY INDUCING THEM TO GO UNDERGROUND.

"DEFENSE MEN" WHO GAVE THEMSELVES UP TO THE AUTHORITIES AND SURRENDERED THEIR ARMS AND EQUIPMENT WERE ABSORBED INTO THE TATMABSW ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHILE OTHERS WERE GIVEN AID TO RESETTLE, HE SAID.

COMMANDER COL AYE KO NEXT EXPLAINED THAT AFTER THE "DEFENSE UNITS" IN THE NORTH EASTERN COMMAND AREA WERE DISARMED AND DISBANDED, FOUR OUT OF THE 23 UNITS WENT UNDERGROUND. AFTER THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAD LAID DOWN THE POLICY FOR DISBANDING THESE UNITS, THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE N-E COMMAND HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEFENSE UNITS AND ALSO WITH VILLAGE ELDERS. THEY ALL AGREED TO THE POLICY.

THOUGH IT WAS PLANNED TO DISBAND THE DEFENSE UNITS BEGINNING 20 APRIL 1973, DISBANDMENT ACTUALLY BEGAN ON 11 APRIL DUE TO VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. THE TROOPS HAD TO BE SENT OUT ON OPERATIONS AS THERE WERE SOME ACTIVITIES AFTER THE FOUR DEFENSE UNITS WENT UNDERGROUND.

MANY ENEMIES WERE KILLED, WOUNDED OR FORCED TO SURRENDER UNDER THE PRESSURE OF ARMY OFFENSIVES.

COMMANDER COL. AYE KO AND COL. TIN OO THEN ANSWERED THE NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS." END QUOTE END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. COMMENT: IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT GUB HAS DECIDED TO DISCLOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO GENERAL PUBLIC THE NEWS OF ITS ACTIONS TO INTEGRATE THE KKYS INTO THE BURMA ARMY. SURFACING OF THIS NEWS MAY INDICATE THAT GUB IS PREPARING FOR A PROLONGED STRUGGLE AGAINST RECALCITRANT KKYS AND PLANS TO ISSUE STATUS REPORTS PERIODICALLY. WHILE THIS SURFACING COULD WELL BE A CALL FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT, IT COULD ALSO REFLECT GUB'S HEIGHTENED CONFIDENCE IN HANDLING KKY. MARTIN

UNQUOTE RUSH

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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